

Dear FCC:

I am a recording musician (singer/songwriter - guitar), a concerned citizen and a media consumer.

I started playing guitar and writing my songs in early 2001. I've always taken a strong interest in independent musicians, heck - in all musicians - all my life. I finally realized that this was a passion I needed to pursue - to not only appreciate, but to participate. Since the beginning of my blooming career, one of my songs (Women Rule the World) was selected as the theme song for Girls-N-Guitars 2002, one of my songs was recorded by another artist out of Austin, TX for her debut album (Jessica Shepherd), I have started recording live demos and working on my own debut album, I have performed on independent radio stations, both on air and internet, I have DJ'd on an independent internet radio station, built my own website dedicated to my music, started performing several open mics & getting several gigs / month, built a fairly decent following and much more. I'm only just beginning.

I recently relocated from Houston, TX to Baltimore, MD. In Houston I performed on air at KPFT (90.1). I love that station and I am a supporting member. I do not have a finished product to send to radio stations, so I have not mailed anything to them. An independent radio station in Canton, OH showed up to one of my gigs near Cleveland & I allowed them to broadcast live. As I understand it, they frequently replay that performance. Now that I am in Baltimore, I have found my new love in independent radio - WTMD (89.7). Of all the stations I've ever tuned in to - WTMD is my favorite. There is more local, independent music on that station than anything else. It hasn't turned into a talk radio program or a news program... it's mostly music - and it's wonderful. I expect to perform live on that station soon. Once I have a finished product, I know I will get airplay in at least 3 different states right away. God bless the independent radio stations!

It is my belief that you should let the local stations determine the local programming based on what their listeners want. Maybe there should be a definition of local programming released by the FCC.

If the FCC defines local programming, it should be that all programming decisions are made by the local station and its listeners/supporters.

Local programming means it is up to the local station program management to determine what should be aired. I personally like to hear more local artists and about local entertainment.

Local stations should not be evaluated on their non-programming efforts such as "participation in local community activities or sponsoring fundraisers". Their involvement in the community should not count as their "local" requirement... not all local stations have the financial ability or manpower to pull off community fundraisers, etc.

I donate to my local radio station - but I do not expect to get airplay because of it. I donate because I want them to stay on the air w/o having to bring in any corporate involvement. I agree that there should not be direct payment or compensation in exchange for airplay - even if it is announced on the air. Regulating that is a big problem, I am unable to comment any further because there are too many angles.

Voice-tracking should be prohibited. It does destroy the connection to the local community. If a radio station must cut costs - Syndication for late night programming is a much better alternative and is not misleading. If I find out that my local station is doing voice-tracking, I will not tune in again.

National playlists should also be abolished. Local programming decisions should be made at the station level & local stations should always take interest in the local talent. Give the DJ's some guidelines, but allow them freedom & creativity.

I would like to see more LPFM stations because I think it would benefit the music community greatly....along with other special interests in a community. LPFM stations are less likely to be governed by some large corporation which allows freedom of programming. It is easier for unsigned, independent artists to get airplay when they don't have a giant wall to scale in order to get in.

I really appreciate the fact that this issue will be addressed with a public proceeding. The public voice in these types of matters is equally important as it is during a presidential election.

Thank you very much for your time and all your efforts.

Cheri Arnett
Singer/Songwriter
Baltimore, MD